

# Camarillo Children's 3 R's

The Camarillo branch of the County Library is always a pretty busy place, but on Saturday mornings it vibrates.

The town's children flock to the library building at Dizdar Park to hear stories, watch puppet shows, and listen to music.

The story hour is a voluntary contribution to the library services by Mrs. Bonnie Davidson of Camarillo. After Mrs. Davidson has carefully read and selected the stories, she tells them in an informal way, holding her young listeners fantasy-bound.

The puppeteers for the show that follows are Ellen Etchechoury, Shirley Pitts and Beverly Lewis. The three girls usually make up the stories as they go along, skillfully maneuvering the puppets. The audience is again lost in a land of make-believe, their eyes fixed on the tiny stage as the youthful string-pullers behind the scenes manipulate the puppet performers.

When this juvenile theatrical program is over, the children gather round the library's stereophonic tape recorder and put on the earphones.

Rarely do they listen to any records in the so-called popular groove. Preferred music is of the fairy-tale variety such as that of Lewis Carroll's stories or classical excerpts.

The listeners seem to enjoy both light and grand opera. Happily, with the earphones on, all distracting noises are shut out. Judging from the expressions that flit across their faces, the children are continuously entranced by what they hear.

Mrs. Judith Yagodka, branch librarian, emphasizes that exposure to good music from the earliest age is the best way to instill in children an enduring appreciation for worthwhile musical compositions.

So the Camarillo library can boast its own set of three R's—reading, rhythm and repertory—all aimed at making children's hearts beat a little happier.



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While Ellen Etchechoury, Shirley Pitts and Beverly Lewis manipulate their marionettes, Mrs. Bonnie Davidson helps explain the dramatic action to the young audience.